

REMARKS

Claims 1-105 are currently pending in the application. Claims 1-99 are allowed. Amendments to claims 100, 102 and 103 are proposed herein. Claim 101 is cancelled herein. The proposed amendments to claims 102 and 103 are made solely to change their dependency from cancelled claim 101 to amended claim 100. Upon entry of the proposed amendments, claims 1-100 and 102-105 are pending. The amendments add no new matter.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b):

Claims 100 and 105 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by Houthoff (WO 98/15564).

Applicants submit that claim 100 as proposed to be amended requires the step of “contacting potassium tetrachloroplatinate (II) with a cycloaliphatic diamine labeled with a detectable marker.” The Houthoff reference does not satisfy this limitation, as it does not teach the use of a cycloaliphatic diamine. The proposed amendment finds support in the claims as filed (see, e.g., presently cancelled claim 101 as filed) and in the specification at, for example, page 27, line 10. Because the Houthoff reference does not teach cycloaliphatic diamine, Applicants submit that the reference does not anticipate claim 100 as proposed to be amended. Because claim 105 is dependent from claim 100, it is further submitted that claim 105 is not anticipated by the Houthoff reference.

Applicants respectfully request the withdrawal of this rejection of claims 100 and 105.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a):

Claims 100 and 105 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over the Houthoff reference in view of Lippard et al. (U.S. 4,843,161).

As noted above, claim 100 as proposed to be amended requires cycloaliphatic diamine. Applicants submit that neither Houthoff nor Lippard et al. teaches or suggests the use of cycloaliphatic diamine. As such, no combination of the cited prior art can satisfy this limitation, so the amended claim cannot be obvious over these references. As noted above, claim 105 depends from claim 100 as proposed to be amended, so claim 105 similarly cannot be obvious

over these references. Applicants note that the Office Action acknowledged the novelty and non-obviousness of a claimed method involving the use of cycloaliphatic diamine where it states that claims 101-104, each of which requires cycloaliphatic diamine, would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim (claim 100) and any intervening claims.

In view of the above, Applicants submit that all issues raised in the Final Office Action have been addressed herein. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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